



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 4, 2003

S. 1400

Ocean and Coastal Observation Systems Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on July 17, 2003*

SUMMARY

S. 1400 would authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 through 2008 for an integrated system of ocean monitoring, data analysis, and research. The system would be developed and operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Navy, the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other federal agencies.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1400 would cost the federal government \$65 million in 2004 and \$885 million over the 2004-2008 period. (About \$300 million would be spent in 2009.) We estimate that enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1400 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 050 (national defense), 250 (general science, space, and technology), 300 (natural resources and environment), and 400 (transportation).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	216	226	237	248	257
Estimated Outlays	65	120	210	230	260

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by the legislation will be appropriated for each fiscal year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar activities. S. 1400 would specify funding levels for five specified federal agencies that would be involved with this project, totaling \$201 million for 2004, \$211 million for 2005, \$222 million for 2006, \$233 million for 2007, and \$242 million for 2008. In addition, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually over the same period for other federal agencies that operate or support coastal or ocean monitoring systems. Finally, S. 1400 would direct NOAA to use at least 51 percent of the funding it would receive under the bill for grants for regional coastal observing systems.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1400 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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